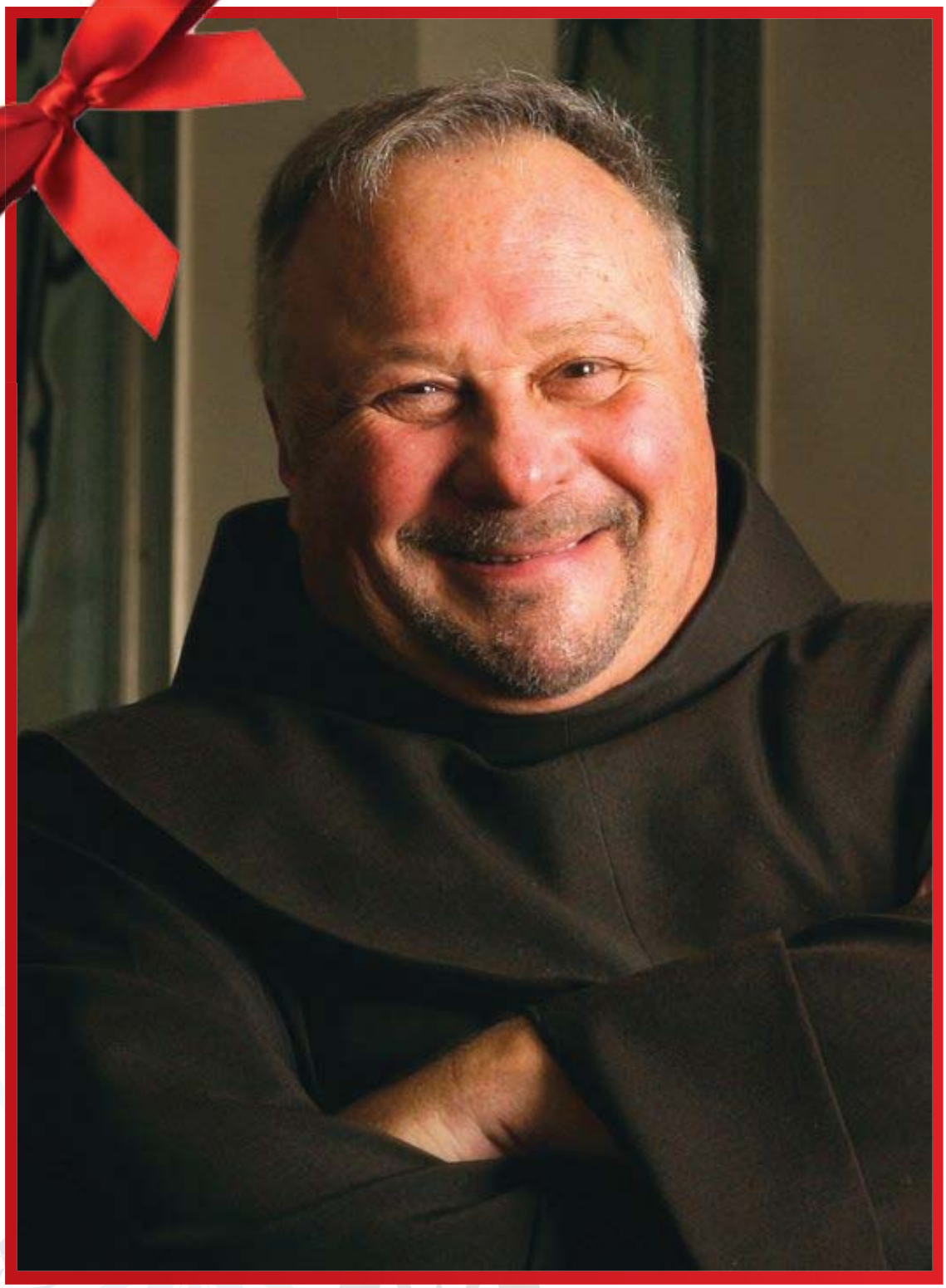
2014 Holiday Edition

A Totally Different Franciscan Kind of Christmas Catalogue

Charity Shop For The Poor!



A Letter From Fr. David Convertino, OFM.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year, try a different way of shopping for Christmas gifts. Do something less stressful and more fulfilling. Shop for the poor. There are so many in our immediate area who will have a very lonely, barren, cold and hungry Christmas this year without your help.

For many children there will not only be no gifts under the tree, but in all likely hood there will be no tree. For many mothers and fathers, there will be no way to provide food, clothing, or maybe even shelter for their children and themselves.

You can help the Franciscan Friars provide a hot meal, groceries, clothing and help with shelter for the poor we serve especially at this beautiful time of Christmas by browsing our Totally Different Franciscan Kind of Christmas Catalogue.

In this catalogue you will find many options to "charity shop" for the poor who need our help and care. Not only will your gift make an enormous difference in someone's Christmas, it can help change their life for the better.

Please consider "charity shopping" our Totally Different Franciscan Kind of Christmas Catalogue, and making a difference in someone's life.

Thank you,

Fr. David Convertino, OFM.

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Socks Instead of Christmas Stockings

St. Benedict's Thrift Shop in Philadelphia, PA provides 300 to 400 changes of clothing to the guests of St. Francis Inn each month.

Click Here
to give the gift
OF CLOTHING

There are so many children, women and men who are without the basic clothing that so many of us take for granted when we dress each morning. Can you imagine having no under garments or socks? Imagine if all of your clothing was dirty, torn and lacking for warmth in the winter cold? Your generous gift can help the Franciscan Friars offer warm, clean clothing to the children, women and men who come to us in need.

DONATE NOW

www.thefranciscanchallenge.org/christmas

"Brother Xavier believes that being a part of St. Francis Inn means "sharing the love and mercy of our loving God. After all, the way of St.Francis is to find God by being with the poor."

Brother Xavier

Brother Xavier is in charge of several ministries at the St. Francis Inn. He provides the service of what the community calls Jesus' Taxi. Jesus' Taxi is a free taxi service, provided by the friar for the elderly and handicapped poor, who would otherwise not be able to get to the laundromat, the hospital or store. He also started his "Token" ministry for persons who could not afford the city's transportation system.

Brother Fred Dilger

Seven years ago, Brother Fred Dilger gave up his career in interior design to become a Franciscan Friar in Kensington, living among and feeding the poor. At St. Francis Inn, the core team of Franciscan friars, nuns and lay staff served 151,699 hot meals last year to the neighborhood's most desperately poor men, women and children. "We physically keep people alive," Dilger said while cooking beef stew for the nightly dinner crowd of 400 at the inn on Kensington Avenue near Hagert Street.

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Santa Brings Food Not Toys

Friars working at the Boston Food Center

Click Here
to give the gift
OF GROCERIES

For many people, shopping in a super market is not an easy option. They have little or no money to spend on food for their families. Often the elderly must decide between purchasing their medication and food. The Franciscan Friars try to help these families, elderly women and men by offering groceries at many of our ministry sites so that bags of food may be available to the hungry that come to our doors. Your generosity will help us continue to offer substantial food to all those who come to us and in need.

DONATE NOW

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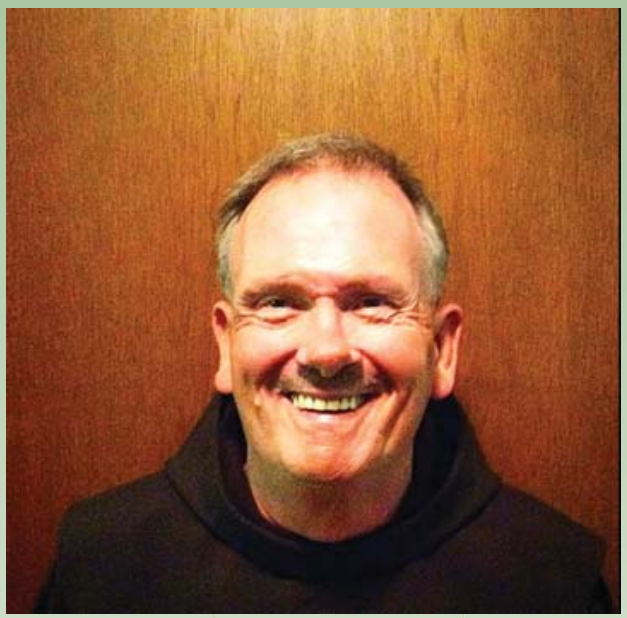

Fr. Joe Quinn OFM

Fr. Joseph Quinn has been strongly involved the Franciscan Food Center in Boston, MA for over three years. On top of his work at St. Anthony's he also works at the Poor Clare Monastery in Jamaica Plains and German Center in West Roxbury.

"You don't have to look far to find those in need these days. Every morning we serve over 350 men, women and children who gather outside the church in need of a hot meal and smile."

-Fr. Joe Quinn

St Anothony's Shrine in Boston, MA

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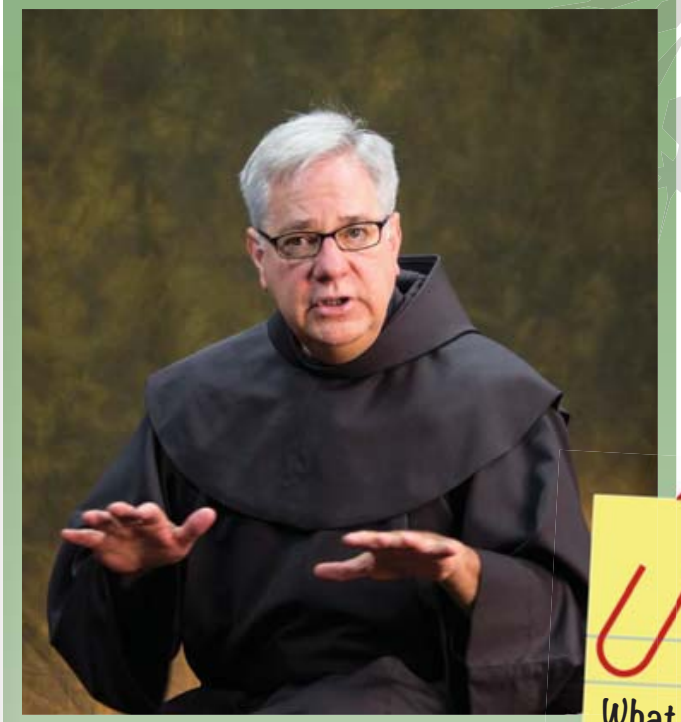
Lights On For Education

Student at Christ The King Prepatory School in Newark, New Jersey

Click Here
To Give The Gift of LEARNING

Two of our Friars administer a Catholic college preparatory high school in inner city Newark, New Jersey that has brought hope and new life to young students who otherwise would not have a chance to receive a college education in our world today. The school, named after Christ the King, serves only economically disadvantaged students. The school is open to students of various faiths and traditions, and is culturally sensitive, community-based and family centered, and it plays an active role in the local community.

www.thefranciscanchallenge.org/christmas



Fr. Bob Sandoz

Father Sandoz, a Franciscan with the Order of Friars Minor, serves as the President of Christ the King Prep in Newark, New Jersey. He has been instrumental in ensuring the success of students through work programs with over 44 businesses and organizations located in North Jersey. The work experience not only helps offset a significant portion of a students' tuition, but it also contributes to their maturity and socialization. Along with his experience in education Father Sandoz has been engaged in retreat ministry, parish ministry, urban ministry and various chaplaincy ministries. He has had ministerial experiences in Guatemala, Japan and Zimbabwe.

What makes Christ The King a different kind of school?

All the students at Christ the King Prepatory School are required to participate in a work-study program, that allows them to help pay for their tuition. These students help pay, by their hard work, for the privilege of a good, solid, educational opportu nity that leads them to college. Please help us continue to help them have a future. Give the gift of education this Christmas!

DONATE NOW

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A Room At The Inn...

The steps of St. Francis Residence in New York City

Click Here
to give the gift
OF SHELTER

St. Francis Friends of the Poor is a non-profit organization founded by Father John Felice, Father John McVean and Father Tom Walters, who are all Franciscan Friars working with the poor in New York. In their efforts to care for the poor, and with the help of many individuals like you, they have created three residences that provide a humane and dignified home for mentally disabled and dependent people who have suffered years of personal and institutional neglect. The first St. Francis Residence was opened in 1980. It was the first of its kind to offer a comprehensive solution to the problem of homelessness -permanent housing with supportive services. This approach has become an award-winning model for programs all over the country. There are now three St. Francis Residences serving almost 300 men and women. All in need are welcome. Your gift will help the Franciscan Friars continue to shelter the most vulnerable of our society.

www.thefranciscanchallenge.org/christmas

DONATE NOW

Fr. John Felice with a resident at St. Francis Inn in New York City

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A Christmas Wish...

Click Here
to give the gift
OF LOVE AND CARE
to those Friars who
have served

STAFF FAVORITE

There are Friars among us who have served so many for so long who are now sick and in some cases dying. They need our care, and we are hoping you will help support the care that they need. Your generosity to help care for those who have ministered among us is deeply needed and greatly appreciated.

DONATE NOW

www.thefranciscanchallenge.org/christmas

Br Richard McFeely

Seven years ago, Brother Richard began ministering to the elderly Friars who live in the retirement houses. He now manages the Franciscan Retirement House in Butler, NJ. Working with the elderly has its own challenges. “It can be difficult,” says Brother Richard, “because you form relationships with the older Friars and some are now infirmed. The men you knew when you first entered the Order were giants of the Community; the college professors, great preachers, and now to see these Friars diminished is very upsetting”.

“I am in charge of a house of thirty-one Friars, many of who are retired; the order has us working till we drop! I see my role as a comforter to the elderly Friars, a listening ear, someone who can them find peace and happiness in their waning days.”

-Br Richard McFeely

St. Francis Residence, NYC